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ACTION COPY

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(809)

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ACTION SS 25

INFO SSO 00,NSCE 00,CCO 00,/025 W

O R 111252Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4442
CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

S E C R E T SAIGON 2867

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 2886

1. I SAW KY LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 11, AND TOOK UP SAME MATTERS I HAD DISCUSSED EARLIER WITH THIEU(REFTEL).

2. KY MADE MANY OF THE SAME POINTS AS THIEU, EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING MORE THAN WAS REQUIRED AND WAS PREPARED TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS WITH THE CANDIDATES,

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AS HAD BEEN INDICATED AT THEIR AUGUST 8 PRESS CONFERENCE. KY, IN REFERRING TO THE CANDIDATES, SAID THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY PREFER NOT TO TRAVEL IN THE PROVINCES AND TO DO THIER TALKING FROM SAIGON. HE SAID THAT IF THEY WERE SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE, THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH THEIU AND KY AND THEY COULD HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. INSTEAD, THE CANDIDATES HAD EXCLUDED THE GVN REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, HAD WRITTEN THE AUGUST 8 LETTER AND ISSUED THEIR COMMUNIQUE, NONE OF WHICH HAD BEEN CORRECT. WITH RESPECT TO THE LETTER, KY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT SIGN A REPLY HIMSELF BUT THAT SCA ADMINISTRATOR TRUONG

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HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEND A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THIEU AND

KY TO SAY WHAT THE GIVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO DO.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE DEVELOPMENTS IN QUANG TRI, KY SAID THAH IT WAS UP TO THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES RATHER THAN THE GVN TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. I REMARKED THAT IT WAS TOO BAD THAT THIEU AND KY HAD NOT GONE ALONG ON THE TRIP AS THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO COMPLAINT THEN. KY ADMITTED IT WOULD HAVE BEEEN BETTER AND SAID THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE,

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NGUYEN VAN LOC, WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GONE BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIEU HAD TOLD HIM THE EVENING BEFORE NOT TO GO. I ASKED KY WHETHER HE AND THIEU PLANNED TO GO ON SOME OTHER TRIPS, AND HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD DO SO.

4. I THEN RAISED WITH KY THE POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF A HIGH LEVEL GVN ELECTION COORDINATOR SUCH AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VIEN, ALONG THE LINES OF MY EARLIER TALK WITH THIEU. KY REPLIED THAT TUONG HAS SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY AND HAD IN FACT ORDERED ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WERE SO CAREFULLY MADE TROUGHT THE PROVINCE CHIEF AT QUANG TRI. I COMMENTED THAT IT WAS TOO BAD THAT GENERAL LAM ALSO HAD NOT BEEN AVAILABLE AS THIS HAD HAD A BAD EFFECT.

5. IN ORDER TO IMPRESS KY WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE AMERICAN REACTIONS TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE, I READ HIM THE TEXT OF THE ELECTION APPEAL MADE BY A GROUP OF PROMINENT AMERICANS AND THE STATEMENT BY THE CONGRESSMEN AS CONTAINED STATE 19045. IN THIS CONNECTION, I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE REPORT OF AN ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE TO RUN THE

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GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD HAD MUCH ADVERSE EDITORIAL COMMENT. KY SAID THIS REPORT WAS COMPLETELY UNTRUE AND ADDED THAT IT WAS MERELY A SERIES OF MEETINGS THAT THE USUAL GROUP

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OF TOP GENERALS HAD HELD TO DISCUSS REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PACIFICATION MATTERS PRIOR TO DISCUSSION WITH WESTMORELAND, KOMER AND M.L. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD PUT OFF THIS MEETING WITH US SINCE THEY HAD MORE PREPARATORY WORK TO DO. HE SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION TO SET UP ANY INNER MILITARY GROUP TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND THIS REPORT COULD BE FLATLY DENIED.

6. I ALSO MENTIONED TO KY SOME OF THE REPORTS FROM THE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS HARASSMENT MEASURES BEING TAKEN. KY REFERRED TO PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT HE HAD BEEN CAMPAIGNING IN SA DEC AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO GET OUT TO VOTE FOR HIM. HE SAID THAT ACCOMPANIED BY CBS AND NBC AND OTHER PRESS REPRESENTATIVES HE HAD STOPPED AT A VILLAGE AND HAD ASKED THE VILLAGERS WHO THEY WERE GOING TO VOTE FOR AND THEY REPLIED THEY DIDN'T KNOW. HE THEN ASKED THEM WHETHER THEY KNEW WHO HE WAS.

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THE VILLAGERS HAD SIMPLY SAID "NO". KY SAID THAT IF REPORTS OF PRESSURES ON THE PART OF PROVINCE CHIEFS COME TO HIS ATTENTION, HE WILL ACT ON THEM. HE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THEM WERE RUMORS, SUCH AS THE REPORT OF PRESSURES BY THE POLICE IN HUE WHERE IN FACT THE POLICE CHIEF BELONGS TO HA THUC KY'S DAI VIET PARTY. KY ALSO SAID THAT HE HOPED I HAD NOTICED THAT LUAN WAS BEING KEPT HERE IN SAIGON AND WAS BEING KEPT QUIET.

7. KY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE GOTTEN BACK ON THE TRACKS. I REVERTED TO MY EARLIER ADVICE TO HIM AS AN "ELDER" REGARDING HANDLING OF THE PRESS. KY SAID YES, HE REMEMBERED, AND PERHAPS THE BEST THING FOR HIM TO DO WAS JUST TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT. I AGREED WITH HIM. BUNKER

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